

THE Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

WALTER G. SMITH

EDITOR

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THE WHISKY RING AND ITS BLUNDERS.

The Whisky Ring has stirred up several hornet's nests, just as this paper predicted. First it has succeeded in putting the Republican Senators and Representatives on whom it depends, face to face with their platform pledges to let the present liquor law alone. The latter have got to show the voting public, and especially the men whom they depend on in campaigns for money, whether they consider the interests of the Whisky Ring superior to those of the party they represent; and whether their platform pledges are held to have no binding value when they conflict with the wishes of the Ring. Here is a predicament which the so-called liquor forces in the Legislature would have very much liked to avoid, but which they have been forced into by suicidal Ring tactics.

The second hornet's nest has been raised among the independent retail liquor dealers, meaning those who are not under the thumb of the wholesalers. They see in the Moore bill nothing more than a scheme of the wholesale men to surround them with competitors, legitimate and blind pig, so that the big fellows can sell more liquor. This spells a bare living for them instead of a fair profit. These retailers are mad clear through and may be counted to use their political influence hereafter against the Senators and Representatives who may vote against the present liquor law in favor of the Moore conspiracy.

The third hornet's nest which the Ring found to stir, was among the temperance men. The latter had settled down, determined to be satisfied with the present liquor law. They let Mr. Woolley go—he the best anti-saloon organizer in the United States; they had even dropped their proposed Local Option bill. They didn't even rouse up when the Whisky Ring made its famous raid on election day. Now, because of the fatuous policy of the wholesalers, they are setting out for a campaign which may easily end in driving liquor from the territories altogether. They have cabled Woolley to come; they have got into relations with a Reform Bureau which has a great and growing influence on Congress; they are consulting that bureau as to the best methods of bringing the vast power of American reform bodies against the sale of liquor to aboriginal races, and they are preparing to give the Whisky Ring of Hawaii the fight of its life. Here is an open hornet's nest indeed; and but for the insane greed of the Whisky Ring here it might have laid dormant for years.

The Advertiser is glad that the hornets have got busy; but what must be the opinion of the friends of the liquor interest about the sagacity of the Ring that stirred all these yellow jackets up when there was no need of it?

A BILL TO CURB A DEMOCRATIC MAYOR.

A bill to amend the Municipal act will be introduced into the House today by either Kaleiopi or Douthitt, the object of which will be to strip the Mayor of much of the power conferred on him in the present Municipal act and confirmed by the recent Supreme Court decision regarding his right to appoint.

The bill would have been introduced yesterday afternoon if there had been any session after the noon recess. It was not introduced in the morning, although it is all drafted and ready, because it was thought best to have the enabling act into the Senate before the next card in the municipal game was exposed.

The proposed bill was agreed upon at a joint meeting of the majority of the Republican Representatives for Oahu, the Republican members of the City Board of Supervisors, and, of course, the City Attorney and his man Friday. At this meeting the whole course of the campaign to have the Municipal act amended to fit the circumstances attendant upon the election of a Democratic Mayor was laid out, and it was in pursuance of this planned course that the bill to pay the present road supervisor and his men was changed to authorize payment up until the fifteenth of the present month; was steered through the House by Kaleiopi, and will be railroaded through the Senate in the same way unless the Democratic Senators are cleverer in plans to retard it than the Democratic Representatives were.

The bill will specify that the Mayor is to have the right still to nominate the heads of departments, and what particular thing is meant by "department" will be specified. In this instance it will be defined as meaning the offices filled with Fern's appointees on Wednesday, with the sanction of the Board and the office of road supervisor. The term will not be defined to fit any of the minor offices which Fern undertook to fill in December last.

The main amendment to the act will specify that the Board of Supervisors through its committees, will hire all the municipal employees except those to be nominated by the Mayor; it will give the Board the power to hire and fire, fix salaries and pay them and generally bring the act into conformity with the rules drawn up by the City Attorney and adopted by the Board for their own government.

The hope is to have this bill slammed through the Legislature on special orders of the day, on motions to prevent debate, and with the silent agreement of the Republican majority in both Houses.

The members of the Board of Supervisors are, say they, "not inclined to show Fern any mercy now, for the reason that after he had had the decision of the Supreme Court in his favor and could afford to be magnanimous, he insisted once again on nominating the whole bunch of city employees from road supervisor to stable boy for Kakaako, or, rather, insisted that these positions had always been filled by the men named by him." According to the statements of some of the members of the Board, they were feeling chastened enough after being turned down in the Supreme Court and learning on authority that the legal reed on which they had relied was fallible, to meet the Mayor more than half way and agree on some manner of doing business. The Mayor, however, according to their statements, "rebuffed them again and assumed a lordly and bossier attitude than ever."

"He thought he could rub it into us," remarked one of the Supervisors, "but now let him watch out. We will have to clip his wings, and the clipping will be a good thing anyway. This city is just as apt to elect a bad Republican as a stupid Democrat, and it should never be that the affairs of this city should be put in one man's hands, be he good or bad."

And yet every man of sense knows that if a Republican had been elected Mayor, however inefficient he might be, nothing in the clipping line would be done. The supervisory idea is to make it impossible for the people to rule if they want a Democrat—all of which is an amazing travesty on the popular government they profess to love so much.

Mr. Roosevelt will now take up his pen as contributing editor of the Outlook. In fact, he has probably done so already, an article of his on Journalism being announced for the next number. As the man who caused the indictment of two great editors for libel and who has enlisted several more in the Ananias Club, the ex-President's views on Journalism will be awaited in the guild of yellow editors with some of the trepidation which the man in the howdah feels when he is expecting the first run and jump of the tiger.

News of the appointment of A. L. C. Atkinson came by cable five days after the correspondents had predicted that the Breckons case would go over into the next Administration. It would seem that the President had found reason not to wait.

The Representative who introduced the bill to abolish the solar plexus in prize fights, should not be forgotten. He may be needed some day to show to visiting Congressmen as one of the finest products of popular rule in these Islands.

"Lucky" Baldwin's wife gets \$200,000. And yet they talked about \$25,000,000 being "Lucky's" fortune. The figures must have come from a Los Angeles census boomer.

The Methodist Conference would do well to adopt strong resolutions against the whisky bill which threatens to spread vice and depravity over the whole Territory.

If those African lions and hippopotami only knew what the 4th of March meant to them, they would get themselves sold to some circus.

To spend all that can be raised or borrowed is a poor start toward preventing Federal interference in the Territorial government.

SAYS THE KEEPER OF EMMA SQUARE IS O. K.

Editor Advertiser: The writer of yesterday's letter surely does not begrudge an old native his \$40.00 a month for looking after Emma Square! I have noticed that man morning after morning hard at work, often at day-break, and I am sure, that he has never failed to be at his post of duty later than 6 a. m. If he takes things a little easier in the afternoons and gambols with his dogs, he works the harder for it in the cool of the mornings. This really should be to his credit, as the city will be spared the expense of an employe, stricken down with heat prostration.

I admit that the grass is sprouting some on the edges of the walks. This is caused by the recent constant rains and you will find that this will disappear, as if by magic, as soon as the weather becomes more settled.

Now, if there is a kick coming, kindly permit me to do a little kicking! The author of the letter seemingly finds the place an eyesore in the daytime. I deem it worse than an eyesore after dark. "Billing and cooing" is all very nice in its place, but a little light should be shed on the subject in a public square, I personally, have aided by installing two 16-candlepower lights near my residence and the church has placed one lamp on their side of the square. Let us have an ardent in a suitable spot and you will find that this, combined with "Louis" renewed efforts, will make the pretty little square a breathing place for the weary in the evenings as well as in the daytime. Now, at night, it is shunned by all decent people.

DR. SCHURMANN.

PORTLAND 'WANTS HAWAIIAN EXHIBIT

(Continued From Page One.)

informing me of my appointment by the Portland Rose Festival Association from Portland, Oregon, my home, as its 'Envoy Extraordinary' to Hawaii in the interests of that body, with the special mission of interesting your people in the festival to be held in Portland in mid-June. The society authorizes me to invite most cordially the Hawaiians to participate in this grand festival in honor of the Imperial Rose—whose royal seat is Portland—and it seems to me that this invitation may be most appropriately extended to your committee for consideration and, I hope, acceptance."

Secretary Wood of the Promotion Committee recommended that this matter be referred to Commissioner Knudsen of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Commission, who would be in the Northwest at the time. It is probable that Hawaii will be conspicuously represented at the Rose Festival, as it will be a great advertising medium on account of the number of tourists who will be passing through the Western cities at that time.

Unique Report of Chairman.

One hundred and thirteen places of interest were pointed out to a party of friends by Chairman Bowen last Sunday on their way to and from church. This was the gist of an interesting report which he made to the committee. On a mere stroll, he found this number of places of note to point out to his friends.

Sightseeing Cars.
The Promotion Committee will take up the matter of a Honolulu Sightseeing Car with the Rapid Transit Company in the near future, many requests for such having come to the committee from tourists. It was suggested that one of the large four-in-hand rigs be secured from a local livery stable to take parties to places of interest on the outskirts of the city. This matter will be handled by Secretary Wood in the near future.

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